Population of frogs in India

1802. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the study report by World watch Institute according to which the decrease in frog population in India has stepped up the incidence of malaria in West Bengal and pest damage to crops in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take to increase frog population;

(c) whether Government propose to ban export of frog-legs to save the kiling of frogs; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) According to the information received from Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Co-operation), no State including Maharashtra has sent any report about the pest damage to crop due to fall in the population of frogs. Tht Integrated pest management approach advocated by the Government, envisages the conservation and augmentation of natural enemies including frogs, a judicious and need based application of pesticides, use of resistant varieties and other cultural practices.

There is no report/evidence to indicate that the incidence Malaria has increased due to fall in frog population in West Bengal.

(c) and (d) The export of frog legs and frogs out of the country is totally banned with effect from 1-4-1987.

Family Welfare Programme

1803. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a scheme to popularise family planning in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). Population Control forms an integral part of the planning process in the country. The new policies relating to population control aim at adopting a holistic approach. They aim at giving due importance to socio-economic factors like female literacy, status of women, employment of women, right age of marriage of girls, attitudinal changes in regard to strong son preference etc. besides improving the performance of the Family Welfare Programme. They recognise the importance of improvement of the quality and out-reach of Family Welfare services, reduction of infant child and maternal mortality, eliciting larger participation of the people in population control efforts and the need to have strong administrative support and political will for pursuing the population control programme. A Committee of the National Development Council on Population has been set up to take into account the multisectoral demension of the population issues and to evolve a National Population Policy. An Action Plan has been prepared in consultation with State Governments and Union Territories Administration for imparting a new thrust and dynamism to the Family Welfare Programme. Population control has also been identified as one of the thrust areas in the VIII Five Year Plan.